

The Bethel Courier.

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 4

WINTER 1992

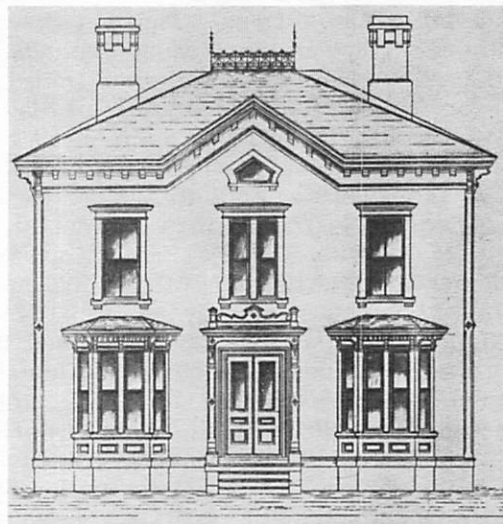
BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1992 ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN RAISES OVER \$6800

Over \$6800 was raised for the 1992 Endowment Campaign from nearly 300 donors. Much gratitude is expressed to all of the following for making this possible:

Barbara Rich Adams, Lancaster, NH, in memory of Eva Bean; Roger & Nancy Adams, W. Simsbury, CT, in memory of Kate Adams; Ernest & Alberta Angevine, Bethel, in memory of Rena Abbott; Mary Ann Ashcraft, Westminster, MD; Hugh & Marjorie Awalt, Augusta, in honor of Colista Morgan; Carroll & Kathryn Bailey, Lewiston, in memory of Margaret Hanscom Humphrey; Brad & Judy Barker, Bethel, in memory of John H. Currier; Jean MacArthur Barker, Delray Beach, FL, in memory of Marjorie MacArthur Noll; Alvin & Lee Barth, Bethel; Otis J. Bartlett, Berlin, NH; Urban & Neda Bartlett, Bethel; Florence Beck, Bethel, in memory of John & Mary Deegan; Bessie Bennett, Peru, in memory of Lester Bennett; Francine Lake Bergman, Key Colony Beach, FL; Linona A. Blake, West Paris, in memory of Clayton L. Blake; C.H. & June Blanchard, Madison, WI, in memory of Margaret Chase Oakes; Reba H. Bloom, Clinton, NJ, in memory of Neal C. Harden; Kenneth & Gwyneth Bohr, Bethel; Florine Bowden, Bethel, in memory of Jennie A. Jones; Garret & Melody Bonnema, Bethel; Dorothy F. Brinck, South Paris; Carl & Lettie Brooks, West Paris; Timothy W. Brooks, Bethel, in honor of the Bean Family; James & Beatrice Brown, Bethel, in memory of Isaac Allerton Cushman; Julia B. Brown, Bethel, in memory of Florice Paul; Marie C. Brown, Bethel; Dale S. Brouse & Robert E. Carroll, Frazier Park, CA, in memory of Virginia Waller; Gordon S. Buck, Watertown, MA; Guy P. Butler, Millinocket, in memory of Nancy F. Butler; Ida Lee Bryant, Bangor, in memory of George W. Bryant; Donald & Mary Calderwood, Mesa, AZ; Leo & Joanna Caproni, N.Y., N.Y., in memory of Dorothy Eaton Avery Slesinger; Elizabeth Mason Carter, West Bethel, in memory of Arthur Cummings & Alice L. Mundt; Albert S. Chapman, Harbert, MI, in memory of John Frye Chapman; Daphne Chapman, Peabody, MA, in memory of Philip Sheridan Chapman, Jr.; Franklin & Rosalind Chapman, Bethel; Donald Christie, Gray; Donald M. Christie, Jr., Poughkeepsie, NY; Fillmore & Shirley Clough, Bethel; Howard & Virginia Cole, Bethel; Wilfred & Eleanor Conary, Bethel, in memory of Hazel E. Conary; Rupert & Eva Conroy, Auburn, in memory of Sylvia Swan Conroy; Cynthia A. Cox, Scotland; Roland & Barbara Crocker, Riverside, RI, in memory of Wallace & Lillias Coolidge; Clayton & Lola Crockett, Bethel; Vivian Daicy, Portland; Elsie E. Davis, Bethel, in memory of Earl A. Davis; Lawrence & Freda Davis, Bethel, in memory of Gladys Cross; Robert & Pauline Davis, Bethel, in memory of Marion W. Kimball; Jean P. Detter, Santa Fe, NM, in memory

(continued on page 2)



This Italianate style residence was built about 1870 for Goodwin R. Wiley (1846-1911) on Church Street. Wiley was the town druggist and began his business in the building bearing his name on Main Street in 1861 (now Preb's Pharmacy). He married Matilda Swift and they had five children. He was once town clerk, clerk of the Village Corporation and secretary of the Gould Academy Board of Trustees. The property was acquired by Gould Academy benefactor Liberty E. Holden in 1907. He donated it to Gould in 1909 and it was dedicated that year as Holden Hall to house boarding students. Following construction of a boy's dormitory in 1939 (also named Holden Hall), the building remained vacant until acquired by Leslie E. Davis for \$1. He had one year to remove the building beginning in 1944. A great deal of the salvage from this building went into the construction of his new home on the Middle Intervale Road following a fire that destroyed his farm and mill. Goodwin Wiley's house was designed by the well-known Maine architect George Coombs of Lewiston and is published here through the courtesy of the Maine Historical Society.

THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

by C.F. Whitman

There were seven soldiers from Bethel, who enlisted in Company G, First Maine Regt. commanded by Col. N.J. Jackson of Lewiston, their names being as follows: A.M. True, Charles P. Stearns, Edward P. Stearns, Solon Robertson, Edwin Farrar, Timothy H. Bean, and Ai E. Seavey. The commissioned officers of the company were Geo. L. Beal, Capt. Henry Rust, Jr., First Lieut. and Jonathan Blake, Second Lieut., the latter being a native of Bethel. "Major"

(continued on page 2)

of F.H. Penley; David E. Diano, LaCanada, CA; in memory of Lissie Marie Farwell; Ruth E. Dobson, Hopkinton, NH, in memory of Winfield Stanley White; Dana & Barbara Douglass, Bethel; Richard & Grace Douglass, Bethel, in memory of Alice Taylor and Vernon Brown; Louise S. Day, Biddeford, in memory of Emeline Heath; Hugh & Mariann Durgin, North Waterford, in memory of John E. Grover; Dione Dyer, Westbrook; Rodney & Katheryn Eames, Cape Elizabeth, in memory of Abbie Brown; Donald Eddy, Haverford, PA, in memory of Edith Eaton Eddy; Lucretia B. Evans, Bronx, NY, in memory of Moses Mason Robinson; Howard & Alice Fales, West Redding, CT; Walter & Phyllis Fales, Royal Oak, MI, in memory of Alice M. Fales; Jean D. Fay, Bowdoinham, in memory of Sidney Wetmore Davidson; John & Julia Fox, West Newton, MA; Doris Fraser, Bethel; Dorothy Barker Fredrickson, Madison, NJ, in memory of Alice Barker; Marian Gates, Ann Arbor, MI, in memory of Charles F. Penley; Madeleine H. Gibbs, Bethel, in memory of Guy E. & Jerrold A. Gibbs; Arthur & Ruth Gilbert, West Bethel; George & Bette Gilbert, Bethel, in memory of Guy L. Morrill & Robert & Lona Gilbert; Shirley & Marilyn Gilbert, West Bethel; Roger Godbout, Berlin, NH; Goodwin's Inc., Norway, ME; Robert W. Goodwin, Norway, ME; Celia K. Gorman, Bethel; June B. Greig, Bethel; Floribel Haines, Bethel, in memory of Agnes Haines; Elizabeth A. Hall, Centerville, MA, in memory of Ruth Hall; Gerald & Linda Harrington, Bethel; Carolyn Wight Harrison, Portland, in memory of Elizabeth Emery Wight & Ruth Emery Verville; Colwyn & Judith Haskell, Bethel; Walter & Carolyn Hatch, Bethel; Euphemia Hastings, West Paris, in memory of Hazel Newell; John B. & Fumiko Head, Bethel, in memory of Ruth Lord; Olive A. Head, West Bethel, in memory of Florice Paul; Clayton & Helen Heath, Norway; Ethel J. Herr, Bethel; Lyman & Lucille Holman, Dixfield, in memory of Robert Dill, Jr.; Gwendolin G. Holt, Bethel, in memory of Ernest Holt; Rudolf & Barbara Honkala, Bethel; Richard & Jane Hosterman, West Bethel, in memory of all deceased members; Tom Hubka, Milwaukee, WI, in honor of Stan Howe; Harlan & Gertrude Hutchins, Bethel; Lee & Virginia Hutchins, Bethel, in memory of Lt. Charles O. Smith; Vernon Ingraham, Marion, MA, in memory of Eli Leland Mason; Mildred Jackson, Bethel; Arlan & Eleanor Jodrey, Bethel, in memory of Melvin Jodrey; Charlotte K. Johnson, Westford, MA, in memory of Albert L. Johnson; Eleanor N. Johnson, Portland, in memory of Alice Barker; Ronald Johnston, Grand Junction, CO, in memory of Enoch Bartlett Tripp; Dorothy Hanscom Jones, Portland, in memory of Margaret Hanscom Humphrey; Helen & Paul Judkins, Vero Beach, FL, in memory of Doris Lord; Royden & Alice Keddy, Gorham; Earlon & Mary Keniston, Bethel; Rebecca P. Kendall, Bethel; Alden & Mabel Kennett, Bethel; William H. Keiffer III, Marblehead, MA; John & Margaret King, Lakeland, FL; Roberta MacA. Kirmse, Wallingford, CT, in memory of Marjorie MacA. Noll; Herbert & Ruth Kittredge, Hanover, in memory of Laurier Kittredge; Fred & Barbara Kneeland, Cherryfield, in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Roland Kneeland; James D. Konkel, Portland; Helen L. Kraul, Portland, in memory of Karl O. Kraul; Frederick E. & Beatrice L. LaPlante, Damascus, MD; Bg. Harold & Edith Lawrence, Portland, in memory of Ellen Ardelia (Mason) Merrill; Rev. Clifford & Elizabeth Laws, Kittery Point; Daisy M. LeClair, Bethel, in memory of Syll LeClair; Will & Mary Leland, Berkeley Heights, NJ; Elsie Louise Lincoln, Bethel; Stephen & Ellen Little, Dover, MA; James H. Locke, Topeka, KS, in memory of Ernest Holt; Arlene D. Lowell, Bethel, in memory of Lloyd Lowell; Frank & Beatrice Lowell, Newry, in memory of Dan & Lola Forbes; Marlene Marshall & Carolyn

True, as he is called, who got his title like our "Major" Millett while a small boy, was one of the youngest men in the company. He had a vivid recollection of his first experience as a soldier, of his drilling with other members of the company in Mr. J.L. Horne's tannery, and of his Norway experience among the boys and their reception at South Paris, where a collation was served by the citizens of that place to the soldiers of the company while on their way to Portland.

While in Portland the soliders of the First Maine Regt. were attacked with measles, which prevented their being sent to Washington till the first of June, where they found the Second Maine Regt. in company of Col. C.D. Jameson already encamped. The Regt. went into camp at Meridian Hill and there remained in the performance of guard duty till the first of August, "during which time it earned enviable reputation for drill and discipline." Having enlisted for only three months, the men returned to Portland on the expiration of their term of service and were mustered out. All the Bethel soldiers returned to their homes.

(To be continued in the next issue)

(Endowment Campaign)

Campbell, Bethel, in memory of Lola Tibbetts; Russell & Ruth Mason, Dunbarton, NH; Sidney & Helen Mason, Springvale; Nancy H. Mercer, Bethel, in memory of Agnes H. Haines; Marilyn R. Noyes Mollicone, Augusta, in memory of Bernice Haines Noyes; Nina R. Mollicone, Bethel; Edward & Mary Mills, Locke Mills; James & Josephine Monahan, Bethel, in memory of Mush McMillin; Helen A. Morton, Bethel; Herbert H. Morton III, Andover, MA, in memory of Edith Hayes Eypper; Daniel & Mary Anne Murphy, Dracut, MA; Norman & Jean Ness, Orono; Hazel H. Newell, Locke Mills; David & Jeanette Nichols, Milan, NH, in memory of Joseph & Tina Nichols; Portia M. Nichols, Mountain View, CA, in honor of Randall H. Bennett; Althea G. Noyes, Falmouth; Nicholas Noyes, McFalls, in memory of John E. Frost; William & Florence O'Connor, West Paris, in memory of William O'Connor; Hazel F. O'Donnell, Newtonville, MA, in memory of Addie Roxy Farwell & family; Joseph E., Hazel F., & Kathleen O'Donnell, Newtonville, MA; Beverly Onofrio, Central Falls, RI; Leslie & Christine Otten, Bethel, in memory of George Wyckoff Bennett; Marvin & Trijntje Ouwinga, Bethel, in memory of Annie Daley Courchesne; Gilman & Winifred Page, Frenchville, in memory of Sarah Bradbury; Earlon & Mary Paine, Bethel; Marilyn A. Parker, Milford, CT, in memory of Guy Parker, Jr.; Barbara Patterson, Bethel in memory of Wayne & Larry Patterson; Ernest & Betty Perkins, Bethel, in memory of James E. Perkins; Archibald & Persis Post, Bethel, in memory of Agnes Haines; Harold & Eunice Powell, Hanover, in memory of Kevin & Christopher Powell; Geneva M. Pratt, Old Town, in memory of Albert W. Grover; Anthony & Eleanor Pugliese, Bethel; Kenneth & Sarah Ramage, Bethel; Beatrice R. Ritter, Torrington, CT; Henry & Elizabeth Robertson, Bethel, in memory of Scott & Emma Robertson; Ned Robertson, DDS, MS, Cleveland Heights, OH; Michael & Sandra Robinson, Amsterdam, NY in memory of Abbie Brown; Frances M. Saunders, Bethel, in memory of Wallace Saunders; Margaret M. Sawyer, Waterford, in memory of Bill A. Sawyer; Gordon & Mary Schexnayder, New Iberia, LA, in memory of Mary Orindo Wight Loomis; Dorothy G. Schmidt, Augusta, in memory of Florice Paul; Stephen Trent Seames, Portland, in memory of Neal W. Allen, Jr., Dr. John Eldridge Frost, &

Laura E. Cole Seames; Charles & Edith Seashore, Bethel; Irene Sessions & Ethel Chapman, West Bethel, in memory of Stella Bryant Smith; Eugenia S. Shorrock, Dover, NH; Ruth R. Silver, Bethel, in memory of Lori Lasko; Roxanne T. Sly, Brooklin; Robert & Elizabeth Stedman, Ottawa, Canada, in memory of Robert D. Hastings; Clyde A. Stevens, Bethel; Ronald & Sarah Stevens, Bethel, in memory of Ole Olson, Jr., & Teddy Olson; Tom & Dorothy Stevens, E. Greenwich, RI, in honor of Archie & Sis Post; Robert B. & Joanne Peabody Stewart, Portland, in memory of Walter Richardson Peabody; Dexter & Janet Stowell, Bethel; Joan C. Swallow, St. Johnsbury, VT, in memory of Merton & Ruth Conner; James & Diane Tedford, Jr., Ipswich, MA; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Bethel, in memory of Dr. & Mrs. R.R. Tibbetts; Amy Penner Stroud, Victor, MT, in memory of The Rev. William Penner; Michael S. Stowell, Lovettsville, VA, in honor of Harriett Swift Stowell; Don & Peggy Tobin, Bandera, TX, in memory of Florence Twitchell Tobin; Valerie Uber & Taylor Thompson, Jamaica Plain, MA; Frank & Janet Vogt, Bethel; Martha B. VonZintl, Bethel; Margaret S. Ward, King of Prussia, PA, in memory of William Lewis Farwell family; Garvin H. Watson, East Sullivan; Millie B. Wentzell, Bethel, in memory of Stanley H. Wentzell; Les Whall, Salt Lake City, UT, in memory of Marzee Whall; Ruth W. Wight, Bethel; Willard & Sylvia Wight, Newry; Priscilla J. Wiley, Katonah, NY, in memory of Ruth Carver Ames; Doris F. Wilkins, Clearwater, FL, in memory of Martha Fifield Wilkins; Eleanor L. Wilson, Bryant Pond; Maxwell & Elizabeth Whiteman, Willow Grove, PA, in honor of Norris & Barbara Brown; Dennis A. Wilson, Bethel; Paula M. Wight, Cumberland; Robert & Jeanette York, Orr's Island, in honor of Stan Howe; Archie, Jr. & Jane Young, Bethel, in memory of Archie L. Young, Sr.

1993 MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS

January 7, Annual "So You Think You Know Bethel"
 February 4, Annual Historical Film Festival
 March 4, "History of Chiropractic Health Care in Bethel", Joseph DeMarco, D.C.
 April 1, "Some Sunday River Stories", Lowell E. Barnes, D.O.
 May 6, "Darby Field and Mount Washington", Guy Gosselin, Director, Mount Washington Observatory
 June 3, "Some Highlights of the History of Hanover, Maine, 1843-1993", Ann Hastings Morton
 July 1, Annual Picnic, "Some Highlights of the History of Mason, Maine, 1843-1993", Richard Grover
 August 5, "Bethel's Methodist Church 1893-1993", Donald and Arlene Brown
 September 2, 28th Annual Meeting, "Science and Technology in the Civil War: A Prelude to Future War", Maurice M. Whitten, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry Emeritus, University of Southern Maine
 October 7, Annual "What's It"; "A History of the Old Grover Hill Road", Pauline Davis
 November 4, "Some 20th Century Bethel Women", Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Chairman, Bethel Historical Society
 December 2, "Christmas with the Masons"

All meetings, unless otherwise specified, will be held at the Society's Broad Street headquarters, the Dr. Moses Mason House, beginning at 7:30 P.M. The August meeting will be held at the Methodist Church and the annual picnic will be held in the town named for Dr. Moses Mason in 1843. A 6:30 pot luck supper will precede the annual meeting.

IN MEMORIAM

Died, December 24, 1992 Elsie Davis

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

To survive, the Bethel Historical Society must continue to produce additional revenue. This issue of the COURIER lists those who have contributed to the Society's annual endowment campaign. Only the interest from these funds will be used for operations purposes. Thanks to all who were so generous in 1992.

The present reduction in investment income due to lower interest rates presents a real challenge to the Society and makes it imperative to increase our income from other sources. A steady rise in membership produces additional support as does expanded programming. Ambitious publications projects have also raised funds for the Society in the past and are being planned for the near future. Rental of the Society's meeting room and grounds for weddings and other special events continues to expand and is bringing additional revenue to the Society's coffers. Donations are also increasing each year and we need to emphasize how important they are to the Society's financial health. Bequests and contributions in memory of or in honor of special individuals are deeply appreciated as well.

All of these areas for increased financial support are vitally important as we attempt to build our organization and make it a stronger one. The staff operates on a very limited budget and our volunteers contribute many hours to ensure the success of the organization. Anyone with suggestions for increasing the revenues of the Society and/or willing to make a financial contribution should call the Society office (207) 824-2908 or write P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217-0012.

Jane W. Hosterman

REFLECTIONS OF A HALF CENTURY

(continued from the last issue)

by Leslie E. Davis

Uncle Arthur Farrar, who still lived in Grafton, was taken sick about the year 1932 or '33 and was under a doctor's care for about a year, but part of the time was able to drive his car and get around. His doctor didn't seem to be able to help him much and finally wanted him to go to the hospital in Lewiston for x-rays and a complete check-up. I carried him down and looked after him while he was there and after he got home. The doctors in Lewiston told me that he had a cancer of the stomach but that they didn't advise an operation for it, so they sent him home to be kept on a diet of very light food, principally milk. He got along pretty well on it until the latter part of the summer.

He wanted to climb Old Speck Mountain once more, which he did, but it was too much for his strength, and he became very sick. I carried him to the Maine General Hospital in Lewiston, where they did an emergency operation which he did not survive. They discovered on the operating table that it was not cancer that was troubling him, but a ruptured gall bladder. We had his funeral at our house and he was buried in Grafton. His heirs had me appointed administrator and I settled up his estate.

During the summer of 1934, I took a pulpwood job of the International Paper Co. to cut, peel and truck 1000

(continued on page 4)

SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. These may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 6% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should include \$3 for postage and handling.

Moses Mason House Tile \$3.50
Stationery(package of ten sheets and ten envelopes) \$2 ea.

Moses Mason House Bethel Railroad Station
Summer House Bethel Covered Bridge

Booklets

"Bethel's Broad Street" 75¢
"The Family Farm" 75¢
"Made in Bethel" 75¢
"Dr. Moses Mason and His House" \$1
"Molly Ockett" \$2

Maps and Atlases

1880 Map of Bethel Hill \$2
1880 Map of Entire Town (Bethel) \$2
1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill \$1
1858 Atlas of Oxford County \$7.50
Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo) sm. \$7.50 lg. \$11.50
Placemats, 4 Season (set of four) \$7.50

Books

Carrie Wight, A HISTORY OF NEWRY \$5
Heywood, HISTORY OF UPTON, MAINE \$10
Hutchinson, THE RUMFORD FALLS & RANGELEY LAKES RAILROAD \$20
BETHEL, MAINE CEMETERIES \$9.50
Russell, INDIAN NEW ENGLAND BEFORE THE MAYFLOWER \$15.95
N.F. Little, AMERICAN DECORATIVE WALL PAINTING 1700-1850 \$9.95
R. Crosby, FROM AN OLD LEATHER TRUNK \$5
W. B. Lapham, HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK, MAINE \$19.95
King, THE WHITE HILLS \$18
THE WHITE MOUNTAINS: PLACE & PERCEPTIONS \$9.95
Holt, GRAND TRUNK LINES OF NEW ENGLAND \$29.95
D.B. Wight, WILD RIVER WILDERNESS \$4
Francis Parkman, THE GOULD ACADEMY STORY \$7.50
MAINE IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC \$29.95
Thomas Hubka, BIG HOUSE, LITTLE HOUSE, BACK HOUSE BARN: THE CONNECTED FARM BUILDINGS OF NEW ENGLAND Paper \$22.95. Cloth \$35
Bennett, BETHEL, MAINE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY \$39.95
M.F. King, ANNALS OF OXFORD \$48
R. Crosby, I WAS A SUMMER BOARDER \$5
A TRUTHFUL LIKENESS: CHESTER HARDING AND HIS PORTRAITS \$25
Paula Wight, NEWRY PROFILES \$5
Eva Bean, EAST BETHEL ROAD \$50
R.H. Bennett, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE \$18
William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF BETHEL, 1768-1890 \$45
F.W. Kilbourne, CHRONICLES OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS \$20

T-Shirts

Moses Mason Museum (Adult) (S,M,L,XL) \$7
Moses Mason Museum (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14) \$6
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adult) (S,M,L,XL) \$7
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14) \$6

Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason,

Moses Mason House 10¢ ea.

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. They will be sent by return mail.

(L.E. Davis Memoirs, continued from page 3)

cords of pulpwood on their land in Newry across the river from the log house I built on the Eli Stearns farm, which is just above my father's place.

Jim Croteau and Percy Walker looked after the job for me and we built a set of portable camps on the west side of the river and a bridge across the river. We had a good working crew and peeled a total of 1650 cords, which we trucked to the Oxford Paper Company at Rumford that fall and the following winter. I got a total of \$7.25 per cord for that job and made a little money on it. We lost our bridge in a fall freshet and had to rebuild it. About this same year, I bought the Hapgood farm at the head of Songo Pond for \$2250, which proved to be an excellent purchase.

It probably was during the years 1934 to 1936 that I bought the old Woodbury and Purington store building at the corner of Railroad and Main streets. I bought this from the Grain Company after they closed out their grain business in Bethel a year or two previous to my purchase. I bought this for \$2250 and they only wanted \$500 down with the balance of 4 1/2% interest, which was a real good trade.

We built the building over somewhat to adapt it to handling lumber and building materials, and we moved our stock and business into it from the shed we had built on Elm Street. The building has been used continuously for a building material store since that date to the present time (1958). (Editor's note: This building burned in 1972.)

By the year 1934, I had bought and set up another and larger sawmill just across the landing from my first one, so that at times we ran both sawmills from the same log deck.

I bought this sawmill from Ira Sawyer who lived in Gray, but had this mill set up on a lot in New Gloucester about the year 1933. I bought the whole outfit including 50HP electric motor and two board saws for \$500. I was pretty busy, so I hired Ira Sawyer to set the mill up for me, and he ran the saw in that mill in the spring of 1934 while I ran the saw in the other mill across the landing. In the summer of 1934, I took a job of Dr. E.L. Brown, the dentist in Bethel, to log and saw about a million and a quarter of pine in North West Norway on a lot on which he owned the stumpage. I sublet this job outright to Ira Sawyer and his brother-in-law, a man named Tripp. I took the job to log, saw and stick for \$10.50 per thousand board feet and let the sawing and sticking to Ira Sawyer for \$5.38 per thousand and gave Tripp \$4.12 to cut and haul, which left me \$1 per thousand to supervise and finance it. Wages were pretty low in 1934 and all three of us made a little profit out of it.

In the early fall of 1934, I took another sawing job of Shepard P. Morse Company of Boston through their representative, William Gunter of Portland, to saw and stick some over two million board feet of logs that were in the Androscoggin River, just above Berlin, NH. I am not sure about the price, but I think it was \$6 per thousand. I took my crew and built the foundation and building for a double mill on the bank of the river and had part of the machinery from my two mills in Bethel moved up, when I was laid up with a lame back. I went to Dr. Pulsifer in Berlin and he strapped me up, but I was still not able to ride in an automobile and had almost continuous pain in my back. I went to one of our local doctors in Bethel and he advised me to go to the hospital for an appendectomy as I had previously had symptoms of appendicitis. I agreed to do so, but felt that I should get my business affairs in a little better shape before I did.

The History of Bethel, Maine



Nathaniel Tuckerman True

edited with an introduction

by

Randall H. Bennett



Available for the first time in book form, Dr. Nathaniel Tuckerman True's *The History of Bethel, Maine*, originally appeared in the pages of the town's first newspaper, *The Bethel Courier*, between 1859 and 1861. Now presented with editorial revisions and corrections by Randall H. Bennett, Curator of Collections at the Bethel Historical Society, Inc., True's *History* is today recognized as one of the earliest and most significant efforts of its type to appear in Maine before the Civil War.

Included in this important study is information on land grants, the settlement of the upper Androscoggin River valley, town meetings, church history, biography, and the famous "Last Indian Raid" in New England, which took place at Bethel in 1781. Regarding Indians, Dr. True provides a wealth of data about the Ossipee, Pequawket, and Anasgunticook tribes of western Maine and northern New Hampshire, with special attention paid to the Indian language and its English translation. In some of his sketches of Bethel's pioneer families, Dr. True provides information of importance to genealogists and family historians. The value of the book is greatly augmented by the inclusion of a new index which makes easily accessible hundreds of names of people who played a significant role in the development of the Bethel area as a prosperous region for farming, lumbering and tourism. Also included are a good selection of period illustrations, courtesy of the Bethel Historical Society, Inc., which greatly enhance the value of the text. 1993, 261 pp., illus., map, index, paper \$23.50 #T681

Heritage Books, Inc.
1540-E Pointer Ridge Pl., Suite 301
Bowie, MD 20716

1-800-398-7709
(Visa/MasterCard Orders Only)

Qty	True's History of Bethel T681	Prepublication Price 18.50 until 1 March 1994	Regular Price 23.50	Total
			shipping	\$ 3.00

We accept Visa/MasterCard/Checks/Money Orders

Book will be shipped in April 1994

With that in mind I went to Gunter and Shepard and Morse and told them the situation and asked to be released from my sawing contract with them. After some dickering, they agreed to release me from the contract if I would turn over to them, cost free. The labor and materials which I had already put in on the job, and let them use my two sawmill outfits for which they would pay me \$250, and they would deliver the machinery back to my mill in Bethel when the job was completed in as good condition as when turned over to them. This was the basis on which we settled it. William Gunter let the sawing job to his son Jack, who claimed he lost money on it. I didn't get the agreed payment for use of my machinery for about a year, but finally did get it.

I went to Dr. Gard Twaddle in Auburn and asked him to take care of an operation if it was necessary, and after a pretty thorough examination he stated that I had no symptoms of appendicitis but that I did have a dislocated sacro-iliac joint and that the answer to that was three months in bed with no springs, or about two or three years of wearing a support for it and less hard work.

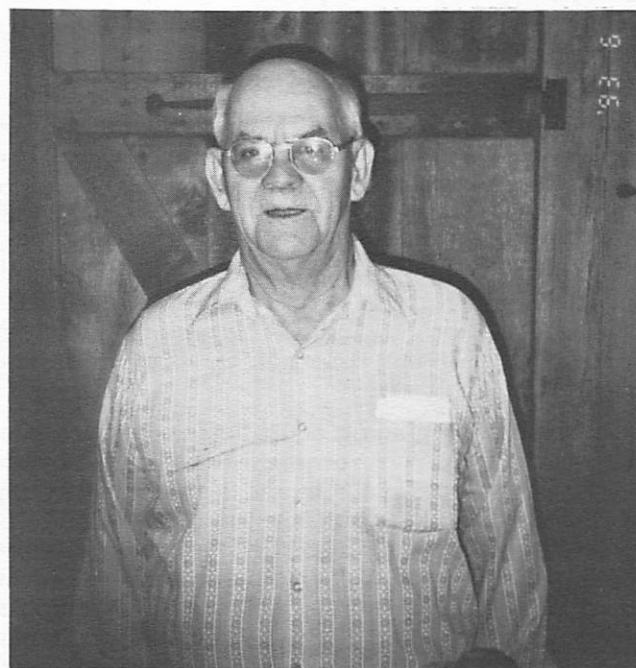
I went right down to Mrs. Moriarty's Corset Shop in Lewiston and got fitted and came home, happy with the outcome of that situation.

I was now able to get around again, but both my sawmills were tied up in Berlin for at least six or seven months. Since I had quite a lot of timber on the Virgin lots on the Rabbit Road, and the crossroads from the Frank Stevens place to East Bethel, I made a trade with the E.L. Tebbetts Spool Company at Locke Mills to let me fix up and use their sawmill. I didn't pay them anything for the use of the mill but did fix up the mill dam and penstock to the waterwheel which was in pretty bad condition. I put in the electricity and connected a 50 H.P. motor to the main line shaft from the waterwheel and ran the two together. We used that set up for about a year and by that time, the Gunters were through with my sawmills in Berlin, NH and had returned them to Bethel. This was during the winter of 1934 and 1935 and we had a very cold winter. Several mornings it was 30 degrees below zero or colder and that old sawmill was a cold and drafty place. A few days it was just too cold to accomplish anything so I sent the crew home. Jim Croteau ran the saw for awhile in the fall and John Raymond operated it during the winter. We stacked the sawed lumber just over the town line in Bethel in the Perry Farrington pasture.

During the summer of 1935 I took a pulpwood cutting job of the Brown Company in Grafton to cut and haul spruce and fir on the Sable Hill area and the swamp between that and Whitecap Brook. My father cut over this same area in 1885, just fifty years before. We landed this pulp in the Cambridge River for driving and we cut about 5000 cords that fall and winter. Jim Croteau took charge of the job and his wife ran the cook camp. We had about 30 to 40 woodsmen at the camp and I bought an old Reo bus which would hold about 18 men which we ran from Bethel to the job in Grafton every day. Linwood Lowell drove this bus. Bob Davis did the clerking for me on this job. I cannot remember for sure what price I got for this job but I think it was \$6 per cord. We had good luck with the cutting, but snow came very late and not too plentifully so that about March 1, 1936 we had the wood all cut but about 1000 cords yet to haul. On March 4, 5, 6 we had a heavy warm rain that melted all our snow and made the highest water in our rivers anyone could remember. It about put an end

to our pump hauling although it froze up again and we only had 600 cords in the woods when we finally gave up trying and broke camp. I had to go back the following winter and cut 2000 cords more and clean up the job. I lost a little money on the clean-up job, but made some the first winter, so it worked out fairly well.

(To be continued in the next issue)



Allan Fraser

MEMBER PROFILE ALLAN FRASER

Born in Kennebago Station, Maine in 1918, the son of Millard and Adelia Morse Fraser, Allan Fraser was educated in the school at North Norway and graduated from Andover High School in 1936. Following graduation, he worked in the woods and with the coming of World War II served four years in the U.S. Army Air Corps, 3 1/2 of those in the United Kingdom. In 1942, he married the former Violet Veinot. Returning home, he worked in the woods again. Later, he was employed by the Oxford Paper Company and was subsequently a scaler for the Brown Company and Paris Manufacturing Company, retiring in 1982. He and his wife lived on their farm in Andover for nearly thirty years. She died in 1978. He is a Past Master of Lone Mountain Grange in Andover.

A life member of the Bethel Historical Society, he serves on the Collections Committee of the Society and has been active in working with student groups and at Sudbury Canada Days as a host of the Farming/Logging exhibit. For the last decade, he has been visiting flea markets, antique shops, book dealers, etc. to collect photographs and other memorabilia dealing with Western Maine. He continues to be a generous donor of artifacts to the Society as well as a provider of slides of a large number of old photographs he has collected in his travels.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Francine Lake Bergman, Key Colony Beach, FL
Pamela Heydon, Wilton, CT
Sue Howe, Bethel
Dale Lapham, Hanover
Warren Tibbetts, Bethel

BOOK REVIEW

Randall H. Bennett, *Bethel, Maine: An Illustrated History*. Bethel, Maine: Bethel Historical Society, Inc., 1991.

The serious reader, as well as the person who just likes to thumb through attractive, picture books, will find Randall H. Bennett's history endlessly fascinating. Published, appropriately enough, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Bethel Historical Society, the volume is a blending of the word and the visual image, the interplay between the two very skillfully executed.

Unlike some books on local history, which often are compilations of series of statistics and biographies, and are, therefore, episodic in approach, this is a chronological narrative. The advantage of this is that the reader can follow the sweep of the area's development, from the Indian period to the present. In the late eighteenth century, the settlers of European roots established a community based on agriculture. This gradually gave way to the present economy based on wood products and other light industry.

Almost from the beginning, education has been a major concern of the town, most obviously exemplified by the well-established Gould Academy and the nationally-recognized National Training Lab (now the NTL Institute). In addition, given its location, Bethel has served as the eastern approach to the White Mountain National Forest, and has therefore had an annual increase of population of summer folk. Because of the Academy, NTL, the White Mountains, and, in recent years, two popular ski areas next door, Bethel's economy has also been bolstered by a number of inns and restaurants.

Bennett's narrative, of course, deals with the above, but also with the consequences for the town of goings on in the wider world. A few examples: The citizens of the area served with distinction in war, both in the earliest years - against native Americans - and later against foreign foes. The Great Depression had measurable consequences on the local population. Reform movements that swept through American society, such as the campaigns against slavery and in favor of temperance, were felt in Bethel, as well.

On the subject of the economy, the history is quite informative. This reviewer could not help but think that those citizens who opposed the town government's



Goodwin R. Willey Residence, Church Street, Bethel, ca. 1910

purchase of the Gamm II building, on the ground that the town should not be engaged in activities that should be restricted to the private sphere, would have found this history quite instructive. In the past, through tax breaks and other economic assistance, the town has actively promoted industry.

Aside from most of the buildings in the "historic district," it is striking that the face of the town has changed a great deal over the years - both as a result of fire and of the wrecking ball.

Other changes are reflective of the American society as a whole. In this regard, the book could be used in Bethel schools to introduce pupils to the relevance, and enjoyment, of the study of history. There are dozens of questions a teacher could raise, asking the students to use the book to find the answers. An interesting exercise might involve a comparison of styles over the last couple of hundred years, using buildings first of all. What style changes are obvious? How do new houses compare with old?

Then, teachers might lead their pupils in tracing changes in clothing. Question? At what point in time does a lady's ankle first become visible in public in Bethel? Or, since the present reviewer favors bow ties, he was curious to discover at what point the neckwear that is more popular today became predominant?

Pupils in our schools will no doubt enjoy discovering what their ancestors looked like, and, in some cases, can point out to their fellow students their own grandparents, or their parents! In addition, they might discover things they never would have considered. For instance, that Bethel at one time had steamboats plying the Androscoggin.

Their parents also are bound to discover things that they never would have guessed. How many, for instance, would be aware that Bethel was once a prolific producer of hops? (The recently established brewery would have benefitted, had the growing of that crop continued!)

Summing up, then, with his lean and lucid style, Bennett has produced a text which is a great pleasure to read, and has accompanied it with a fascinating series of sketches,

EDITOR'S CORNER

Alert readers of the last issue detailing the history of Paradise have spotted some errors in this article which should be corrected for the record. Jane Young has pointed out that it was Clarence Rolfe, not Guy who had her house built in 1962, not 1970. She and her husband Archie moved there in 1970, not 1977. John Brown has reported that the lot formerly the property of Dr. Sidney Schnittke had another house on it that burned in the early 1930s. This is supported by a letter from Roberta C. Pevear to Margaret Joy Tibbetts that came after Miss Tibbetts' article appeared. Mr. Brown also has reported that a cabin belonging to Miss Tibbetts' father on Paradise burned in the mid-1950s. I am grateful to our many readers who help us keep the history of the area as accurate as possible.

SRH

photographs, maps, street plans, and broadsides, which, taken as a whole, will provide many hours of pleasure and instruction to the citizens of Bethel and to the many visitors to the town.

Ernest Cassara

Ernest Cassara, a retired history professor, lives in Bethel.



West Bethel Flat School, ca. 1903.

1st Row: (L-R) George Mundt, Maude Luxton (Hunt), Allen Walker, Carroll Abbott, Ruth Bean (Grover), teacher, Violet Morrill; 2nd Row: (L-R) _____, Beatrice Andrews, _____, Lloyd Luxton, Blanche Luxton, Dorothy Morrill, Rebecca Bennett, Lillian Morrill; 3rd Row: (L-R) Marian Morrill, Vanda Whitman, Carl Stearns, Gladys Morrill, Elmer Morrill.

Photo Courtesy of Blaine Mills and Elizabeth Gilbert

NOISE IN THE PAST, PRELUDE FOR THE FUTURE?

Residents on Broad Street object to being disturbed by horse trotting up and down the street in the very early morning, disturbing people before it is time to get up. They also object to fast driving and making a trotting park of the street.

Oxford Democrat
May 23, 1895



West Bethel Flat School, ca. 1903.

Photo Courtesy of Blaine Mills and Elizabeth Gilbert

SOCIETY RECEIVES AASLH AWARD FOR PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM

The American Association for State and Local History selected the Bethel Historical Society as a winner in its 47th annual Awards Program for "an outstanding record of publication in local and regional history." The Award was presented at the December monthly meeting by Sheila McDonald, Maine AASLH representative.

Since 1976, the Society has published its quarterly THE BETHEL COURIER, produced a series of pamphlets, "Made in Bethel" (1976), "Bethel's Broad Street" (1977), "Dr. Moses Mason and his House" (1981), and "Molly Ockett" (1981), issued an annual calendar and cook book (1979), reprinted two local histories (William B. Lapham's HISTORY OF BETHEL and Eva Bean's EAST BETHEL ROAD with updated indexes and additional material included), completed a listing of all known graves in Bethel (1989), and sponsored two books by Society Curator of Collections Randall H. Bennett (OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE: A GUIDE TO ITS HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE and BETHEL, MAINE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY).

(continued on page 8)

Join the Bethel Historical Society dedicated to preserving and interpreting the local past.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) free admission to the museum | (5) quarterly publication |
| (2) special discounts at museum store | (6) reduced course fees |
| (3) preferred rate for meeting room rental | (7) voting rights in the Society |
| (4) special library and archival privileges | (8) special invitations to Society occasions |

(Please Print)

Name

Address

.....
Signature

- Sustaining (Individual) \$5
 Contributing \$15
 Patron \$30
 Benefactor \$40
 Students (under 18 years) \$2
 Senior (over 55 years) \$3

- Life over 55 years \$50 single
 Life over 55 years \$75 couple
 Life under 55 years \$100 single
 Life under 55 years \$150 couple
 Individual preference (any amount over \$5)
 Corporate \$50

(Award, continued from page 7)

This national recognition of the excellence of the Society's publications program represents the second time that the American Association for State and Local History has recognized the organization. In 1975, AASLH awarded the Society a Certificate of Commendation for "an effective program of preservation, publications, and education."

GENEALOGICAL INQUIRY

Pedigrees for (1) Patience Howe (wife of Samuel Matthews, Sr. of Paris, ME), born ca. 1801 in Bethel, ME, to Ephraim Howe and Joanna Willis, and for (2): Delia Kennerson (wife of Kimball Hall), born 1809, to Ithial Kennerson and Delia Glines. Anyone having information to share write: David Lang Clark, PO Box 182, Bruceton, WV 26523.



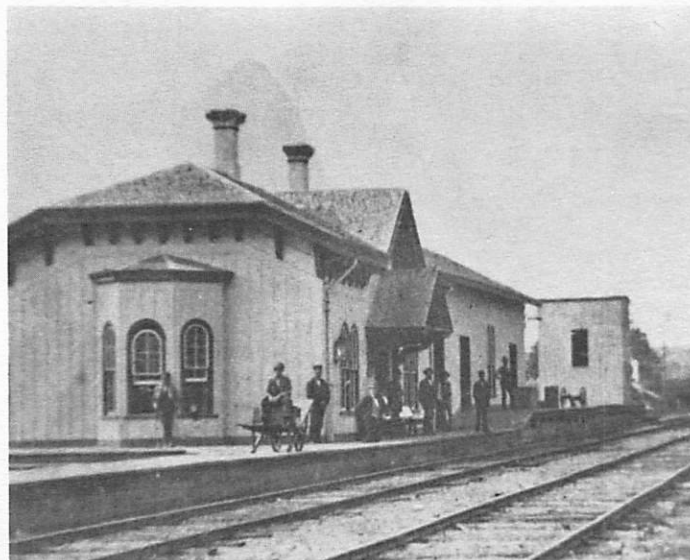
Sheila McDonald, AASLH Maine representative, left, presents that organization's award, to Society president Jane Hosterman at the December monthly meeting.

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Jane W. Hosterman, President; Charles Raymond, Vice President; Walter Hatch, Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees; Rebecca P. Kendall, Treasurer; Trustees: John Bayerlein, Olive Anderson, Marvin Ouwinga, Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Barbara H. Honkala

Published quarterly by the Bethel Historical Society, Stanley R. Howe, Editor. Please address all comments and inquiries to Editor, Bethel Historical Society Publications, Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. Telephone (207) 824-2908.

ISSN 0749-9108



Bethel Depot, late 19th century

The Bethel Historical Society
P.O. Box 12
Bethel, Maine 04217

NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 8
BETHEL, MAINE
04217


SAVE OUR HERITAGE

BUSINESS/CORPORATE SPONSORS

Austin Associates, P.A. Certified Public Accountants
— Bethel Chiropractic Health Center — Bethel Citizen
— Bethel Furniture Stock, Inc. — Bethel Inn & Country Club — Bethel Savings Bank — Bethel Spa Motel & Shops — Brooks Bros., Inc. — Central Maine Power Co. — Gilbert Mfg. Corp. — Goodwin's Inc. — **GIB Telephone Operations** — John R. Mason, D.D.S. — Lowell's Saw Shop — Newton & Tebbets, Inc. — Ralph Merrill Plumbing & Heating — Preb's Market Place Pharmacy — Rostay Motor Inn — S. Timberlake Co. — Smith & Town Printers — Stuart Crocker Architect — Sunday River Ski Resort — Western Maine Supply